



OCA 87-5888

2 9 DEC 1987

The Honorable Dante B. Fascell Chairman Committee on Foreign Affairs House of Representatives Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I have received your letter of 3 November 1987 describing your concerns with the programming on Radio Marti. Since Radio Marti is under the jursidiction of the Department of State, I believe that State is the appropriate agency to respond to your inquiries in this area.

A similar letter is being sent to Chairman Mica.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ William H. Webster

William H. Webster Director of Central Intelligence

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OCA 87-5899

29 DEC 1987

The Honorable Daniel A. Mica Chairman Subcommittee on International Operations Committee on Foreign Affairs House of Representatives Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I have received your letter of 3 November 1987 describing your concerns with the programming on Radio Marti. Since Radio Marti is under the jurisdiction of the Department of State, I believe that State is the appropriate agency to respond to your inquiries in this area.

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Sincerely yours,

/s/ William H. Webster
William H. Webster
Director of Central Intelligence

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Remarks

D/OCA plans to prepare a response for DCI signature.

Executive Secretary
9 Nov 187

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Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2011/08/18: CIA-RDP90G00152R000901770005-1 To: The Director
From: Dave Gries
We plan to prepare an answer for your signature.
<pre>We plan to prepare an answer for my signature.</pre>
No answer expected or required
Dave, I prefer to
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House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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STEVEN K. BERRY

November 3, 1987

The Honorable Daniel Webster Director of Central Intelligence The Central Intelligence Agency Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Mr. Webster:

In recent months, certain broadcasts of Radio Marti have caused concern among members of South Florida's journalistic community. As you know, exclusive interviews aired over Radio Marti with Cuban defectors who are under the U.S. Government's protection have drawn criticism of the radio and of U.S. Government policies. In particular, interviews with defectors such as Major Florentino Aspillaga and General Rafael del Pino, have resulted in claims that the U.S. Government may be favoring a government-owned and operated station over the private media and controlling access to news and information by the American public.

The Voice of America, of which Radio Marti is a part, was designed not to compete with our private media but to reach solely a foreign audience. However, it is impossible given current technology to prevent Marti from having an audience in South Florida. Marti has been in the position of breaking important news in South Florida because of its access to certain sources. The concerns voiced by the press are valid and disturbing. Should Radio Marti, or any other government information media which may be heard in the United States, be given access to a provocative news source without the same, timely access for private media representatives?

We understand that there are cases in which an individual finding asylum in the United States might not wish to speak to the press or may choose only to be interviewed by a USIA reporter. That is always the prerogative of the individual. However, as we do not yet have the technology to ensure that USIA fulfills only its overseas mandate, it would be wise to make certain that this is the individual's choice, not the U.S. Government's limitation.

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DCI EXEC In order to rectify this situation, we suggest that a memorandum of understanding be developed among the relevant government agencies to address these situations. In our view, such an MOU should provide media access to any individual under U.S. Government protection who may be interviewed by any U.S. Government broadcast or print media which may find dissemination within the U.S.

We feel that a procedure to address this between the private and government media is in the best interests of Radio Marti and our other U.S. public diplomacy programs to clarify their roles as objective, accurate sources of news who do not compete with the private media concerning news and information of domestic interest related to federal government activities.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

With kindest regards,

Danta B Fassell

Chairman Committee on Foreign Affairs Daniel A. Mica

Chairman

Sincerel

Subcommittee on

International Operations